

NO.  
19

# PEEP COMICS

ACTION  
DETECTIVE  
ADVENTURE

10¢

SEPT.



CRIMINALS EVERY-  
WHERE!... BEWARE!  
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE  
the  
HANGMAN





WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM



## USE THIS ENTIRE COUPON!!!

JUST PRINT PLAINLY ON THIS COUPON, YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AGE AND SEND IT TO ME WITH 10¢ TO COVER COST OF MAILING AND HANDLING.

Joe Higgins  
Room 315  
60 Hudson St.  
New York City

DEAR JOE,  
PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE **SHIELD G-MAN CLUB**. I AM ENCLOSING THIS COUPON TOGETHER WITH TEN CENTS TO COVER THE COSTS OF HANDLING AND MAILING MY BADGE AND IDENTIFICATION CARD.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
AGE \_\_\_\_\_



EXACT COPY OF BADGE  
IN THREE COLORS  
RED-WHITE-BLUE

CUT ON THIS LINE

Bulletin #3. WHY WAS THE COMET KILLED.

It seems as if the untimely death of the Comet has caused considerable controversy among our readers. However, Bob Dickering his brother, (THE HANGMAN) has received numerous letters congratulating him on his appearance in the pages of PEP COMICS. While we are trying our darnedest to satisfy all of our readers, we know that we cannot please everyone. To all you readers who are upset at the death of the Comet, let me remind you that the Comet did commit a murder. Although unintentional, an officer of the law was killed. Retribution caught up with John Dickering and he paid the supreme penalty, so dear readers if you have learned to enjoy the adventures of the Comet, remember that his brother in the role of THE HANGMAN will carry on as gangland's most feared menace, and I am sure that you are going to enjoy his adventures in each and every issue, and of course I don't want you to forget all about Joe Higgins and his pal Dusty. We are still going to start off the pages of PEP COMICS each and every month not forgetting SHIELD WIZARD COMICS.

PEP COMICS is your magazine. We want to give you the stuff that you enjoy reading. We don't know what you want until you let us know, so boys and girls keep your mail coming fast and furious. If I do not answer it on this page, I will send you a personal letter discussing it

Thousands of readers have written in for a picture of the SHIELD and DUSTY. On the back cover of August PEP COMICS, and September ZIP COMICS, TOP NOTCH, and BLUE RIBBON COMICS, is a 4 color picture of the SHIELD and DUSTY, including Betty Warren, Mamie Mazda, and our pal Ju Ju Watson. A few of the outstanding members this month are listed below. I'll write you all direct.

Arthur Blevins  
Baywood, Va.

George Balbi  
50 Willow St.  
Bklyn, N.Y.

Charles G. Tolliver  
203 Hamilton St.  
Fairmont, W. Va.

*Joe Higgins (The Shield)*



# THE ORIGINAL **SHIELD**

WITH **DUSTY**  
THE BOY DETECTIVE



JEHOSEPHAT!  
HE'S HANGED  
HIMSELF!

DEAD AS A  
DOORNAIL! I  
KNEW THERE WAS  
SOMETHING WRONG  
WHEN HE DIDN'T  
ANSWER OUR CALL!  
FUNNY, HE SHOULD  
HAVE DONE THIS THE  
VERY DAY I WAS AS-  
SIGNED TO ASSIST HIM  
IN HIS BOND-SALE  
DRIVE!

IN THE HOME OF J.W. TAYLOR, SPECIAL GOVERNMENT APPOINTEE ASSIGNED TO THE TASK OF HEADING THE SALE OF DEFENSE BONDS. THE TELEPHONE RINGS CONTINUOUSLY--BUT NO RESPONSE. THEN, THAT INDOMITABLE DUO, THE *SHIELD*, AND *DUSTY*, THE BOY DETECTIVE BURST IN, AND SEE...











JU JU WASTES NO TIME...

I'M TAKIN' YOU ALONG WITH ME!  
WITH YOUR FACE 'N FIGURE 'N MY  
SALESMANSHIP, WE'LL SELL A MIL-  
LION DOLLARS  
WORTH O'  
BONDS!



STEP RIGHT UP FER THE  
BEST INVESTMENT  
YOU'LL EVER MAKE!  
AN INVESTMENT IN  
YER UNCLE  
SAM!



SAVE THAT PATRIOTIC  
HOOEY! WE'RE NOT  
SHELLIN' OUT OUR  
DOUGH SO GUYS  
LIKE TAYLOR CAN  
GET THEIR HANDS  
ON IT!

PATRIOT-  
ISM,  
NUTS!



WAIT A MINUTE! I'VE GOT  
CONFIDENCE IN MY GOVERN-  
MENT, AND I DON'T LIKE  
THOSE REMARKS!

IZZATSO!  
WHADDA YA  
GONNA DO  
ABOUT IT?

NOR I!



A FREE-FOR-ALL ENSUES...

HEY,  
LEGGO!



THE 'SHIELD AND  
DUSTY SNOOP INTO  
THE FRAY....

START A RIOT,  
WILL YOU?

POW

HERE'S A DIFFER-  
ENT BRAND OF  
CHIN-MUSIC!



EASY EVERYBODY! EVERY-  
THING'S UNDER CONTROL  
NOW! THESE FELLOWS  
ARE PROBABLY PRO-  
FESSIONAL HECKLERS!



OWOO!  
WHAT  
HIT ME?

MY POOR LITTLE JUJY!  
DID BAD MEN HURT  
MY LAMBIE PIE?





LATER....

WELL BOYS, HOW DID YOU MAKE OUT TODAY?

LOUSY, CHIEF! WE STARTED A NICE RIOT, BUT THE SHIELD AND HIS KID BROKE IT UP!



THEY'RE GONNA RUIN THINGS FOR US, I TELL YOU. THE CROWDS GO NUTS EVERY TIME THEY SEE EM. YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHING!

HMM... PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT! THE SHIELD MAY PROVE SOMEWHAT OF A NUISANCE!



I COULD USE THOSE TWO IN MY ORGANIZATION. EVERY MAN HAS HIS PRICE AND THEY MUST HAVE THEIRS. I KNOW HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THEM-- THROUGH JOE HIGGINS!



IN JOE'S APARTMENT...

EASY, SWEETIE, THIS BIG STEAK WILL FIX UP YOUR EYE IN NO TIME!

I WONDER WHAT'S KEEPING JOE AND DUSTY?

OWOO



WELL, HERE THEY ARE AT LAST!



IT'S A WONDER YOU WOULDN'T BE AROUND WHEN TROUBLE STARTS. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN ON THIS DRIVE, TOO, YOU KNOW!

ER... AH... EXCUSE ME THE PHONE

R...R...R...N...G



HELLO!... WHAT!... WHAT'S THAT!... Hmm... ALL RIGHT, I'LL TELL HIM, MR. STEELE!



C'MON, DUSTY, WE'VE GOTTA FIND THE SHIELD! I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR HIM!



OUTSIDE, THE DUO QUICKLY BECOME THE SHIELD AND DUSTY, THE BOY DETECTIVE...

WHAT'S UP, SHIELD?

I DON'T KNOW YET, BUT WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!

THE SHIELD AND DUSTY ARRIVE AT THEIR DESTINATION...

MY FRIEND JOE HIGGINS TOLD ME AN ERIC STEELE WANTS TO SEE ME! WHICH ONE OF YOU IS HE?

I AM ERIC STEELE, SHIELD! COME IN, WON'T YOU?

I'LL BE BRIEF, SHIELD! YOU HAVE GREAT RESOURCE AND INTELLIGENCE! I COULD USE YOU, AND THAT BOY OF YOURS IN MY ORGANIZATION!

WHAT ORGANIZATION?

I AM A MAN OF GREAT INFLUENCE, SHIELD--MORE THAN ANYBODY REALIZES! I CAN MAKE MYSELF MASTER OF THIS COUNTRY IN A SHORT TIME! MY ORGANIZATION IS NATION-WIDE! LET US NOT FOOLISHLY FIGHT EACH OTHER!

TOGETHER, WE CAN TAKE OVER THE REINS OF THE GOVERNMENT! POWER WILL BE OURS! WEALTH BEYOND OUR DREAMS---WHAT DO YOU SAY, SHIELD?

I'LL SAY MY PIECE EVEN MORE BRIEFLY, YOU SCURVY RAT!

L..LET ME DOWN!

I LIKE THIS COUNTRY AS IT IS--AND SO DO THE REST OF THE AMERICANS! I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'RE JUST A HOPPED-UP SCREW-BALL OR NOT, BUT IF I CATCH YOU AT ANY TRICKS, IT'LL BE TOO BAD FOR YOU!

HEY, BUD! YOUR SHOELACE IS UNTIED!

HUH?







NOW YOU DID IT, YOU LUNKHEAD! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU ANYWAY!

WHADDA YA MEAN I DID IT! IT WUZ YOU WHO WUZ TRYIN' TO HOG THE ROAD!



WHILE JU JU IS OCCUPIED IN THE ARGUMENT...

HAW, HAW! SWITCHIN' THESE BAGS IS GONNA BE A CINCH!



WELL, IT'S A GOOD THING FOR YOU I'M IN A HURRY, OR I'D STRAIGHTEN YOU OUT... BUT PLENTY!

OH YEAH!



JU JU PROCEEDS TO HIS DESTINATION.

ALL RIGHT, YOU RED-BLOODED AMERICANS, IF YOUR COUNTRY MEANS ANYTHING TO YOU, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO SHOW IT!



ATTA BOY, FOLKS! KEEP SHOOTIN' THAT GREEN STUFF AT US. IT'S A TONIC FOR YOUR UNCLE SAM!

I'LL HAVE TWO BONDS!

THREE FOR ME!



HEY FOLKS! WE'VE BEEN ROBBED! THESE BONDS ARE PHONY!



THIEF! WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK!

LYNCH THE CROOK!

ONE SIDE FOLKS, WE'LL HANDLE THIS!



HOLY COW! TH- THEY ARE PHONY! HOW'D THAT HAPPEN?



THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE, OF FICER! I'M A G-MAN MYSELF! I WOULD-N'T...

CUT THE GAB! I'M TAKIN' YOU TO THE STATION HOUSE!







BUT YOU CAN'T PINCH ME... I'M A G-MAN, I TELL YOU! I WOULDN'T PULL ANY STUFF LIKE THAT!

I BUNNO! BIGGER SHOTS THAN YOU HAVE TRIED IT!



LOOK, I GOT A VERY IMPORTANT AMERICANISM RALLY TO ATTEND AT THE MADISON GARDEN TONIGHT! YOU CAN'T HOLD ME HERE! THE SHIELD WILL STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT! I'M HIS RIGHT HAND MAN! YOU TRUST THE SHIELD, DON'T YOU?



SO, THE SHIELDS IN THIS TOO, HUH? FUNNY... THE SHIELD WAS TAYLOR'S ASSISTANT AND TAYLOR COMMITTED SUICIDE FOR SUSPICIOUS REASONS! ON TOP OF THAT, THE SHIELDS CONVENIENTLY THERE AT THE TIME! NOW, HE'S MIXED UP WITH YOU!



ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, THE STORY IS RELAYED TO NEWSPAPERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

HOLD THE PRESS FOR A NEW HEADLINE!

EDITOR



WUXTRY! READ ALL ABOUT IT!



GRACIOUS! SELLING COUNTERFEIT BONDS!

HMM! I WOULDN'T TAKE ONE OF THOSE BONDS FOR NOTHING! SO THE SHIELD TURNED GRAFTER TOO!



BETTY ALSO READS THE STORY...

GOOD HEAVENS! THIS IS INCREDIBLE! THEY EVEN HINT THAT THE SHIELD IS TRYING TO GET MONEY TO SET HIMSELF UP AS A DICTATOR! I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS RIGHT NOW!



LATER, THE SHIELD BURSTS INTO THE POLICE STATION....

THERE'S BEEN A TERRIBLE MISTAKE MADE!

SURE, SHIELD. AND YOU MADE IT!



LOOK, LIEUTENANT, I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THOSE COUNTERFEITS! IT'S A GUY NAMED ERIC STEELE WHO'S TRYING TO SET HIMSELF UP AS A DICTATOR! AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, STEELE KNOWS PLENTY ABOUT THE SUPPOSED SUICIDE OF TAYLOR!

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE YOU TO THINK THAT ONE UP?





ALL RIGHT, THEN, DON'T BELIEVE ME, BUT IF I ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS AFFAIR, THERE'S NO REASON TO HOLD WATSON!

NO, I SUPPOSE NOT.. I'LL LET HIM GO!



HIYA, SHIELD! I KNEW YOU'D STRAIGHTEN IT ALL OUT! I BET THESE COPS FEEL PRETTY SILLY NOW!



HEY.. WHERE'RE THEY TAKIN' YOU? HOLY SMOKE THESE GUYS MUST BE NUTS ARRESTIN' YOU! THEY CAN'T DO THAT!..I..I...

YOU GO DOWN TO THE GARDEN, AND MAKE YOUR SPEECH! I'LL BE OKAY!



THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HAD TO RESIST THE LAW!



BUT IT'S GOT TO BE DONE! STEELE'S TOO DANGEROUS TO BE TRIFLED WITH!



HELLO, SHIELD! YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME GETTIN' HERE! WHAT HELD YOU?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, DUSTY, I'M WANTED BY THE POLICE!



LOOK, KID, STEELE WASN'T KIDDING WHEN HE BOASTED ABOUT HIS INFLUENCE! HE'S GOT IT, ALL RIGHT! THOSE STORIES ABOUT ME IN THE PAPERS PROVE THAT!



THERE'S NO TELLING HOW FAR HE'LL GO UNLESS WE STOP HIM, BUT WE'VE GOT TO BE CAGEY! HE'S PLENTY CLEVER! NOW, HERE'S MY PLAN!

SHOOT, SHIELD!



WHILE AT THE GARDEN PEOPLE POUR IN BY THE THOUSANDS TO ATTEND THE AMERICANISM RALLY.



BOY, HAVE I GOT THREE STRIKES AGAINST ME! IF THOSE LOOKS WERE DAGGERS, I'D LOOK LIKE A WALKIN' PIN-CUSHION!



MEANWHILE, THE SHIELD, AS JOE HIGGINS, PROCEEDS TO THE HOME OF ERIC STEEL



I'M JOE HIGGINS, MR. STEELE, AND I WANT TO JOIN UP WITH YOU! I KNOW YOU FRAMED THE SHIELD--AND ANYBODY THAT IS SMART ENOUGH TO DO THAT IS GOOD FOR MY MONEY!



SO, YOU RESPECT MY CLEVERNESS, EH?

WELL, YOU'LL HAVE EVEN MORE REASON TO ADMIRE ME, IN JUST A MOMENT!



AS JOE STEPS THROUGH THE SECRET DOOR...



JEHOSEPHAT! HOW..WHO...

SURPRISED, EH, MR. HIGGINS? I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE! SOMEBODY ELSE UNDER-ESTIMATED ME AS YOU CAN EASILY SEE!



BETTY, SHE MUST HAVE COME HERE TO TRY AND HELP THE SHIELD!



YES, JUST AS YOU DID! SHE TRIED TO HOODWINK ME WITH HER CHARMS, AND I'LL GRANT SHE HAS MANY! REALLY, YOUR STRATEGY WAS RATHER CRUDE, AND FATAL FOR THE TWO OF YOU!

WHEW! YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A REGULAR ARMY, HAVEN'T YOU? WELL, AS LONG WE'RE GOING TO DIE, THERE'S NO HARM IN TELLING US WHAT YOU INTEND TO DO!



IT MIGHT AMUSE ME!

WHILE NOT FAR AWAY, ATOP A TELEPHONE POLE...



THE SHIELD'S DONE IT! HE'S LIFTED THE RECEIVER OFF THE HOOK! NOW, I'LL JUST ESTABLISH A CONNECTION WITH MY WIRE TAPPING KIT!

HELLO..HELLO..MADISON GARDEN? WHO'S THIS, A REPORTER? SWELL! JUST KEEP YOUR LINE OPEN, AND LISTEN FOR THE BIGGEST SCOOP YOU'LL EVER GET IN YOUR LIFE!



BELLS OF HADES! AM I DREAMING?



UNWARE THAT HE IS TALKING INTO AN OPEN PHONE, STEELE CONTINUES HIS BOASTING....

SO MY STORM TROOPERS SURPRISE YOU, EH? WELL, YOU'D BE A LOT MORE SURPRISED IF YOU KNEW HOW MANY OF THEM I HAVE IN THE U.S. ARMY READY TO DO MY BIDDING!



AT THE MOMENT, JUJU ALSO DOES SOME SPEECH MAKING, BUT OF A DIFFERENT KIND!

THE SHIELD IS YOUR BEST FRIEND--EVERYTHING AMERICA STANDS FOR!



NUTS! THE SHIELD'S TRYING TO BE A DICTATOR, AND YOU'RE JUST A STOOGES FOR HIM! HERE'S WHAT WE THINK OF BOTH OF YOU!



OWOO! CUT IT OUT! YOU'RE ALL WRONG! OOF!



JUST THEN, THE REPORTER TEARS TOWARD THE PLATFORM...

STOP, EVERYBODY! HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH!

THE TELEPHONE IS HELD UP TO THE LOUD-SPEAKING SYSTEM....



YES, I, ERIC STEELE, WILL RULE THIS COUNTRY VERY SOON! MY MEN ARE EVERYWHERE!



ALL THOSE WHO OPPOSE ME, WILL MEET THE SAME FATE TAYLOR DID--EVEN THE SHIELD HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY DISPOSED OF!



BOY, OBOY, O'BOY! THAT STEELE COULDN'T HAVE PUT HIS NECK FURTHER INTO A NOOSE IF HE TRIED! THE SHIELD OUTSMARTED HIM AFTER ALL!











# THE HANGMAN



JIM NELSON, INMATE OF THE STATE INSANE ASYLUM, BOLTS FROM HIS ROOM, AND--UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, CLIMBS THE SPIKE-TIPPED FENCE....,THUS,BEGINS AN EPISODE THAT IS DESTINED TO EMBROIL THE HANGMAN IN ONE OF THE WEIRDEST ADVENTURES OF HIS LIFE.!

ALMOST OVER THE TOP OF THE FENCE, NELSON JAMS HIS LEG ON ONE OF THE UGLY SPIKES.

LIMPING AND BLEEDING, NELSON STAGGERS TOWARDS THE CITY...







SPREAD OUT!  
HE'S GOT A BIG  
START ON US!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER,  
THE WHISTLE SOUNDS  
THE ALARM...



SEVERAL HOURS LATER, IN THE CITY, BOB  
DICKERING AND THELMA GORDON ARE RE-  
TURNING FROM A MOVIE...

BOB,  
LOOK AT  
THAT MAN!  
HE'S EITHER  
BADLY HURT  
OR DRUNK!



ANYHOW, HE'S GOING IN-  
TO THAT APARTMENT  
HOUSE, SO I GUESS  
HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!



INSIDE...IN THE APARTMENT OF DOG-  
TOR LUKE DONOVAN, THE MAN WHO  
SENT JIM NELSON TO THE ASYLUM...



YOU!.. WHA...!  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING HERE?



DON'T KILL ME!  
WE..WE WERE  
WORKING TOGETHER!  
YOU CAN KEEP JIM  
NELSON'S FORTUNE!  
ONLY, DON'T KILL  
ME, PLEASE!



HMM..THERE'S THAT FELLOW  
AGAIN! HE SURE CAME OUT  
OF THERE IN A HURRY!





SOMETHING AWFULLY FUNNY IS GOING ON, THELMA! I'M GOING IN THERE AND SEE WHAT'S UP!

I'LL GO ON HOME, BOB! BUT PLEASE BE CAREFUL!



BOB ENTERS THE DOCTOR'S APARTMENT...

WELL!



DEAD! STRANGLED TO DEATH..AND IT JUST HAPPENED TOO! HIS BODY IS STILL WARM! I THINK THIS IS A CASE FOR THE HANG-MAN!



A MOMENT LATER, BOB DICKERING BECOMES THE HANGMAN..

NOW, TO CATCH THAT FELLOW WE SAW OUT-SIDE!



THE SHADOW OF THE GALLOWS FALLS ACROSS HIS FACE!

AS JIM NELSON HURRIES ALONG THE STREET...



DID YOU MURDER LUKE DON-OVAN? DON'T LIE!

NO! I DIDN'T DO IT!



I WAS GO-ING TO SEE HIM, BUT HE WAS DEAD WHEN I GOT THERE!



IT'S A PRETTY POOR STORY. I'LL HAVE TO TURN YOU OVER TO THE COPS. COME ON, WE'RE GOING BACK TO DONOVAN'S APARTMENT.



LATER...

SAY!...NOW, I RECOGNIZE HIM! THAT'S JIM NELSON, THE GUY WHO JUST ESCAPED FROM THE ASYLUM!



AND LUKE DONOVAN SENT HIM THERE. OKAY, BOYS...THERE'S YOUR MOTIVE AND THERE'S YOUR KILLER. THAT'S THE END OF THAT CASE!

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE PSYCHIATRISTS EXAMINE YOUR SANITY, NELSON, AND IF YOU'RE OKAY, YOU'RE GONNA GET THE HOT SQUAT!



LATER, THELMA ARRIVES AT THE JAIL FOR AN INTERVIEW...

HAS NELSON BEEN EXAMINED YET, LIEUTENANT?



YES, AND HERE'S A STORY FOR YOU! TH' DOC SAYS THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HIM! HIS GOOSE IS COOKED!

COME BACK THIS WAY, AND YOU CAN SEE HIM FOR A FEW MINUTES!



HELLO, THEL!

OH, HELLO, BOB!



BOB, IF NELSON IS NOT INSANE, WHY WAS HE SENT TO THE ASYLUM IN THE FIRST PLACE? LET'S GO BACK AND HAVE A TALK WITH HIM!



LET US HELP YOU! IF YOU'RE INNOCENT, I'LL SEE THAT THE HANGMAN CLEARS YOUR NAME!

I SAY? IF I DIDN'T DO IT, I DIDN'T DO IT!





JIM, HERE'S YOUR BROTHER, MIKE, AND LAWYER SMEDLEY. THEY'RE HERE TO HELP YOU, IF YOU'LL LET THEM. WHAT DO YOU SAY?



JIM, I HAVE YOUR BEST INTERESTS AT HEART, AND AS YOUR LAWYER, I ADVISE YOU TO CONFESS AND PLEAD GUILTY. IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE.



SMEDLEY'S RIGHT, JIM. AS MUCH AS I HATE TO SEE MY OWN BROTHER UP ON TRIAL FOR MURDER, IT'S THE ONLY THING TO DO!



HM... WAIT A MINUTE! JIM'S LEG WAS BLEEDING! HE LEFT A TRAIL OF BLOOD STAINS. IF HE DIDN'T GO INTO DONOVAN'S APARTMENT, THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY STAINS ON THE RUGS!



SUDDENLY JIM NELSON LEAPS AT HIS BROTHER...

YOU DIRTY DOG! YOU PROBABLY KILLED DONOVAN YOURSELF! HE FRAMED ME INTO GOING TO THE ASYLUM, AND YOU WERE BEHIND IT! I ACCUSE YOU OF HIS MURDER!



YOU'RE LOSING YOUR HEAD, JIM. CALM DOWN. THE EVIDENCE AGAINST YOU IS CONCLUSIVE!



BOB LEAVES, AND IN A FEW MINUTES, THE HANGMAN RACES TO DONOVAN'S HOME..



WHILE IN A HOTEL NOT SO FAR AWAY....

PHONE'S RINGIN', SLUGGER!

I KIN HEAR IT!





WHO'S DIS? OH, MIKE NELSON?...YEAH...YEAH... I GIT YA'! OKAY, MIKE!



I'LL BE DOUBLE DOGGONED! JIM NELSON WASN'T LYING! THE BLOOD STAINS STOP AT THE FRONT DOOR! HE WAS NOT IN THE MURDER ROOM!



PHONE RINGING! AWFUL FUNNY SOMEBODY'D RING THE PHONE IN A DEAD MAN'S HOME!



AS THE HANGMAN PICKS UP THE RECEIVER....



THE GUNMAN STICKS A GUN INTO HIS BACK!

STICK 'EM UP, HANGMAN!



THE HANGMAN LASHES OUT WITH A VICIOUS ATTACK.



BUT SUDDENLY....

BONK

SO THAT PHONE WAS JUST A GAG TO ATTRACT MY ATTENTION EH?





BUT A SECOND THUG ENTERS,  
AND CLUBS THE HANGMAN  
FROM BEHIND...



SOMETIME LATER, TWO PATROLMEN  
ENTER THE APARTMENT TO FIND...

HEY! THE  
HANGMAN...  
WHAT'S HE  
DOING HERE?



I GOT A NASTY CLOUT ON THE  
HEAD! I CAME HERE TO SEE  
WHETHER OR NOT, BLOOD-  
STAINS ARE ON THE RUG!



WELL, THERE ARE BLOOD-  
STAINS! THAT PROVES JIM  
NELSON WAS IN  
HERE!



THERE WEREN'T ANY STAINS  
THERE, WHEN I CAME IN! WHO-  
EVER KNOCKED ME OUT PLANT-  
ED THOSE  
STAINS!



MAYBE MIKE NELSON'S ACCU-  
SATION AGAINST HIS BROTHER  
WASN'T SO CRAZY AFTER  
ALL! I'LL PAY  
HIM A CALL!



THE  
HANGMAN  
LEAVES...

MEANWHILE AT THE NELSON HOME...

NELSON  
AT HOME?

YES, MR.  
SMEDLEY!  
COME  
IN!



MIKE, I GOT BAD NEWS FOR YOU!  
THE HANGMAN TIPPED OFF THE  
COPS THAT YOUR BROTHER WAS  
NOT IN DONOVAN'S APARTMENT!







AS THE MEN REACH THE STREET...





I TOLD YOU NOT TO RAT  
ON ME AND I MEANT IT!  
I'LL KILL YOU BEFORE I'LL  
LET YOU SQUEAL! IN FACT  
I'LL DO IT RIGHT NOW AND  
TAKE NO MORE CHANCES!



BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH  
YOU, YOU'LL BOTH WISH  
YOU WERE DEAD!



YOU KILLERS ARE ALL AWFULLY  
SOFT WHEN A GUY DOESN'T HAVE  
HIS BACK TURNED!

BOOM



KEEP AWAY FROM  
ME, HANGMAN! YOU  
WON'T GET ANYTHING  
FROM ME, I TELL  
YOU!



JIM NELSON'LL TELL  
ME EVERYTHING I  
WANT! YOU'RE COMING  
BACK INTO THE HOUSE  
WITH ME, WHILE HE  
WRITES OUT  
THE CON-  
FESSION!



NOW, GO AHEAD, AND  
WRITE, NELSON--AND  
DON'T LEAVE ANY-  
THING OUT!





WHILE THE HANGMAN IS OCCUPIED WITH NELSON, SMEDLEY TAKES ADVANTAGE OF HIS DISTRACTION, AND MAKES A BREAK...



BUT THE HANGMAN TURNS AND SEES—JUST AS SMEDLEY CLAMBERS THROUGH THE WINDOW....



ALMOST PULLED A FAST ONE, DIDN'T YOU?



OUT THE WINDOW AND UP THE STREET, THE HANGMAN PURSUES THE FEAR-CRAZED KILLER AND THEN, THE CHASE LEADS HIM TO THE ROOF OF A BUILDING...



HA, HA, HA! I TRICKED HIM! HE'S GOING BY!



I'M FREE! FREE FROM THE HANGMAN AND THE GALLOWS!



AS THE LAWYER RACES ALONG THE LEDGE...



HE SLIPS!!





AND HURTLES TOWARDS THE STREET!



EIGHT STORIES TO THE GROUND! WHAT A WAY TO DIE, BUT IF IT HADN'T BEEN THIS WAY, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE GALLOWES!



C'MON, SERGEANT A MAN JUST FELL OFF THE ROOF!



HIS BROTHER, MIKE AND SMEDLEY BRIBED DR. DONOVAN TO COMMIT JIM TO THE ASYLUM SO THEY COULD GET HIS INHERITANCE! DONOVAN GOT COLD FEET SO SMEDLEY KILLED HIM!

DEADER'N A DOOR NAIL!



NEXT DAY...



WHAT WAS THE REAL STORY ON JIM NELSON, BOB?

AT THE FRONT DOOR...

COME RIGHT IN, MR. NELSON.

I'M JIM NELSON. I WONDER IF I COULD SEE MR. DICKERING?



I OWE SO MUCH TO YOU TWO BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY! WHEN YOU SEE THE HANGMAN, PLEASE TELL HIM HOW GRATEFUL I AM!

I'M SURE, JIM, THAT THE HANGMAN IS HAPPY JUST TO KNOW THAT AN INNOCENT MAN HAS BEEN ACQUITTED!





# DANNY IN WONDER-LAND



IF YOU WERE TO SEARCH FAR AND WIDE, YOU WOULD NEVER FIND A MORE HEARTLESS PERSON THAN PASHA-EL-RASHID, THE SULTAN OF SWAMI. SO, BEWARE, DANNY AS YOU WANDER THROUGH THE LAND OF WONDERS KEEP YOUR PATH SEPARATED, FOR THE SULTAN WOULD AS SOON CHOP YOUR HEAD OFF AS EAT...AND HE LOVES TO EAT!

HAMPH! NOT DONE TOO WELL! WHERE IS WIFE NUMBER TWELVE? SHE KNOWS HOW TO ROAST A PIG!

YOU ORDERED HER EXECUTED YOUR MAJESTY!

AT THAT MOMENT, DANNY, HIS DOG, SNAPPER, AND KUPKAKE, THE DWARF, (PRONOUNCED LIKE THE TWO WORDS CUP CAKE) APPROACH SWAMI

WELL, WE HAVEN'T RUN INTO MUCH ADVENTURE SO FAR!

BOY, I'M SPOILIN' FOR SOME REAL RED-BLOODED ACTION!















HIYA, SULTZ -  
OLE KID, OLE  
PAL, OLE  
SOCK! HOW'S  
YOUR  
HEALTH!

QUIET, YOU IMP!  
SO YOU TRIED TO  
STOP AN EXECUTION,  
EH? WELL, I HAVE  
JUST THE THING  
TO TEACH YOU A  
LESSON! TAKE  
THEM TO THE  
TORTURE  
CHAMBER!



JUST THEN, THE KING'S CHEF RUSHES  
IN—

YOUR MAJESTY,  
I HAVE TERRIBLE  
NEWS FOR  
YOU!



MUSHROOMS! YOUR FAVORITE  
DISH—THERE ISN'T A  
ONE TO BE HAD!

WHAT?  
NO MUSH-  
ROOMS!



IMBECILE!  
NINCOMPOOP!  
HOW CAN I  
EAT MY MEAL  
WITHOUT MUSH-  
ROOMS! I'LL  
HAVE YOUR  
LIMBS TORN  
OUT BY THE  
ROOTS  
FOR  
THIS! I'LL—



I KIN GET YOU  
MUSHROOMS, SULTAN,  
IF YOU'LL LET  
US GO FREE!

IT'S A DEAL—  
BUT I'LL KEEP  
YOUR TWO  
FRIENDS  
HERE IF  
YOU  
FAIL!



IT'S IN THE BAG, SULT OLE  
CHUM! I'LL BRING YA BACK  
ALL THE MUSHROOMS YA  
CAN PUSH INTO  
THAT FAT FACE—  
---ER--- I  
MEAN YOU  
KIN  
EAT!



ALL DAY LONG, KUPPIE  
SEARCHES THROUGH  
THE CITY

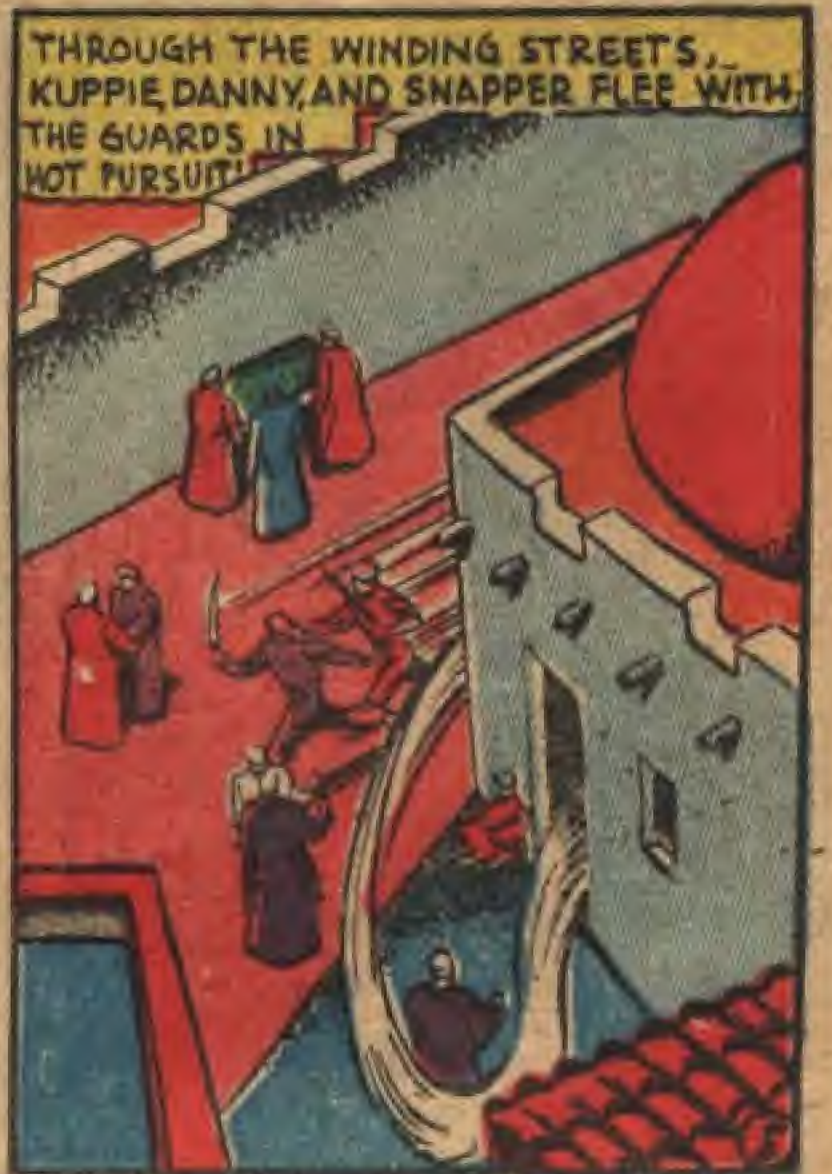
SORRY! NO  
MUSHROOMS!



AND THEN HIS WANDERINGS  
CARRY HIM OUTSIDE THE CITY  
GATES WHERE HE SEES—

WOW! I FOUND  
'EM! A WHOLE  
FIELD FULL O'  
MUSHROOMS!









BOY! IT'S A GOOD THING WE DUCKED INTO THIS HOUSE! THEY ALMOST HAD US!



WELL, WHADDA WE DO NOW, DANNY?

TRY 'N FIND MUSHROOMS, SO WE CAN SAVE THAT GIRL'S LIFE!



WHASSA MATTER, SNAPPER?... OH, I GET IT—YOU WANNA PLAY!



OKAY, FETCH THIS!

WUF! WUF!



BOY! THAT WAS QUICK! HERE, GIMME THAT BOTTLE!



THAT SNAPPER'S PRETTY SMART, HUH, DANNY!

OH! STOP PLAYING WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!



THE BOTTLE SMASHES INTO A STONE!

CRASH!



KUPPIE! LOOK WHAT'S COMIN' OUT OF THE BOTTLE!

GEE WHIZ! WHAT IS IT, DANNY?



I AM A GENIE!

RUN KUPPIE, SNAPPER!



LEGGO US, YA BIG PALOOKA! WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU!

HO! HO!



I MEAN YOU NO HARM.... YOU FREED ME FROM THE BOTTLE— I AM YOUR SERVANT! NAME ANY WISH AND YOU SHALL HAVE IT!

DANNY! DID YOU HEAR THAT? HE'S OUR SERVANT!



BOY, I COULD WISH FOR A LOTTA THING BUT RIGHT NOW, IT'S MUSHROOMS WE WANT!





MUSHROOMS, EH? YOU SHALL HAVE THEM—WHOLE FIELDS OF THEM!

GEE, THAT'S SWELL!



LATER!  
SULTAN, WE GOT REAL MUSHROOMS THIS TIME!

I WARN YOU, IF THIS IS ANOTHER TRICK, YOU'LL REGRET IT!



HMM! THEY'RE REAL ONES! AND DELICIOUS, TOO!



HOW CAN I EVER REPAY YOU BOYS? YOU'VE MADE ME A HAPPY MAN!

MORE MUSHROOMS, YOUR MAJESTY!

JUST DON'T BE CRUEL ANY MORE 'N I'LL GET YOU ALL THE MUSHROOMS YOU WANT!



THAT'S ALL RIGHT I SUPPOSE—BUT BOY OBOY! IF I HAD THE NERVE I'D ASK FOR EVEN A BIGGER FAVOR!



THE GENIE DIVINES THE WISH KUPPIE IS THINKING OF...

SO, THAT IS WHAT MY LITTLE MASTER WANTS, EH?



SUDDENLY, THERE IS A PUFF OF SMOKE, AND THE SULTAN VANISHES!



BOY! THAT'S WHAT I CALL SERVICE, DANNY!

HA! HA! HA! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE ALL THOSE WOMEN KUPPIE?

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF DANNY IN WHICH HE MEETS UP WITH FATHER NEPTUNE AND BLACK BART, THE PIRATE SCOURGE OF THE SEVEN SEAS. IT'S THE MOST RIB-TICKLING OF ALL YARNS! (7)



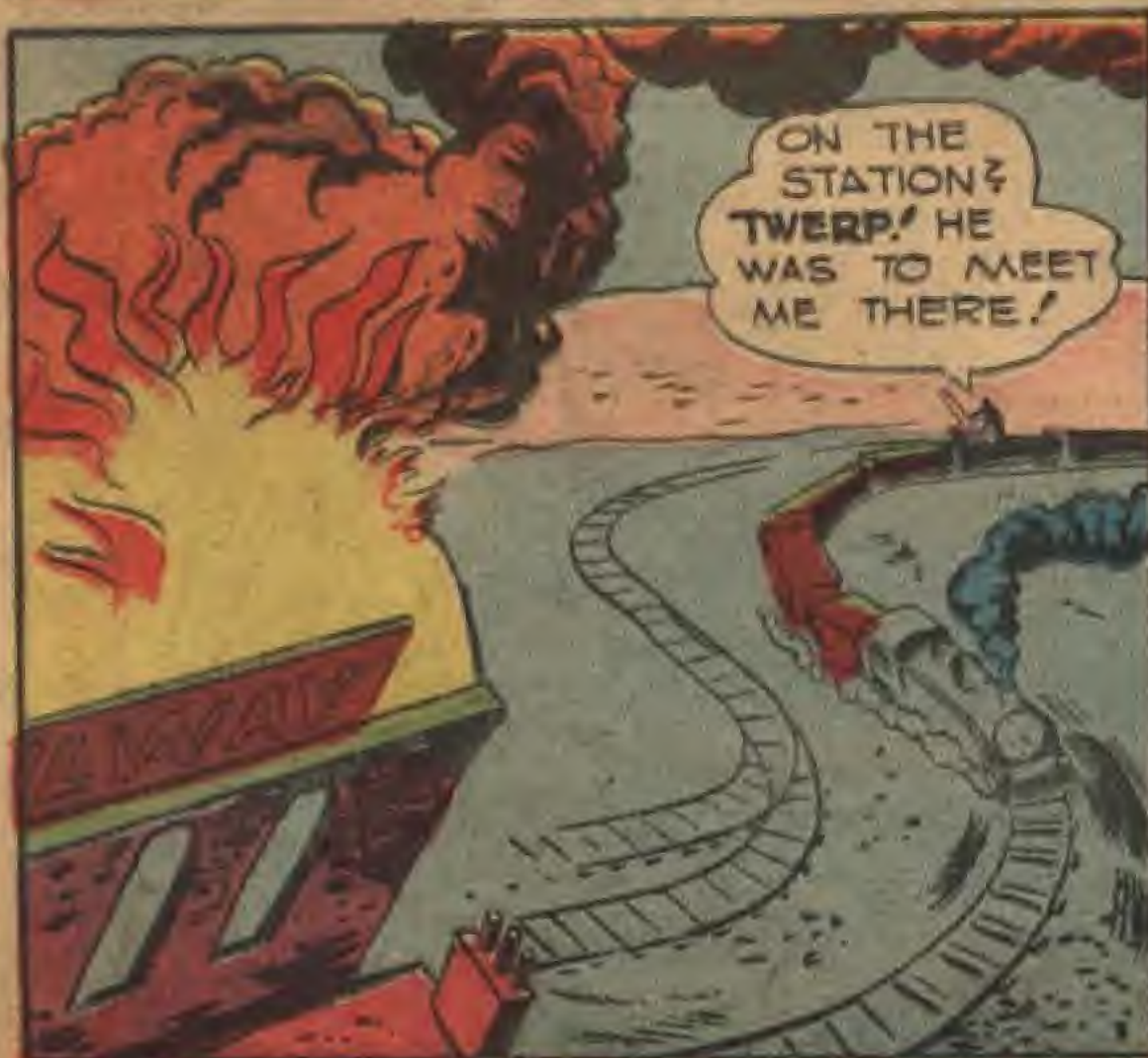
# SERGEANT BOYLE

HEY! THEY GOT A BARRAGE BALLOON! LOOK AT 'ER COME!

HERE COME OUR SPITFIRES! NOW WATCH THOSE JERRIES RUN!

BOYLE! THAT BALLOON'S LANDIN' SMACK ON THE STATION!

LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, A MUNITIONS TRAIN FROM THE COAST IS ATTACKED BY A SQUADRON OF NAZI BOMBERS!























THERE GO THE SIRENS. THAT MEANS THE HEINIES WILL BE HERE IN FIVE MINUTES!



I CAN SEE 'EM NOW, SARGE!

WE'RE HERE! LOOK, TWERP...THOSE BOYS HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB!...THERE'S NOT A BALLOON LEFT!

BODY!



ALL RIGHT, MEN, WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, RELEASE THE BALLOONS.



HERE THEY COME! LET 'ER RIP!



ACH! BALLOONS! IT'S A TRAP!



HOLY CATS! THOSE BOMBERS ARE GOING TO CRASH RIGHT ON THE POWER STATION! INTO THE TRUCKS, MEN! HEAD FOR THE BRIDGE!





THE NAZI PLANES, TANGLED IN THE BALLOON NETTING ARE DRAGGED TOWARD THE RIVER BY THE TRUCKS AND.

NICE GOIN'!  
WE MADE IT! NOW,  
TO WIND UP THIS  
LITTLE SABOTAGE  
RING!



HE HASN'T CAUGHT ME YET!  
IF I CAN GET TO THAT  
TRUCK, I CAN MAKE A  
BREAK FOR IT!



I'D SURE LIKE TO  
MEET UP WITH  
THE GUY WHO  
INVENTED THESE!  
I CAN'T BUDGE  
THE THING!



OOP!

HEY!

COME DOWN  
FROM THERE!  
I'M TAKING  
THIS TRUCK!



STUMBLING BACKWARD, TWERP ACCI-  
DENTALLY KICKS THE BALLOON  
RELEASE.....



OOPS!  
SORRY!



I WAS SURE I  
SAW THAT PHONEY  
MAJOR A MINUTE  
AGO, AND WHERE'S  
TWERP?



TWERP! HAVE  
YOU SEEN THE  
MAJOR?

N..NO..I  
DIDN'T,  
SARGE, BUT..I  
JUST HAD AN  
ACCIDENT..CLUMSY  
OF ME... LOOK!



HALP!  
GET ME  
DOWN!



WELL, I'LL BE...  
WELL WHAT DO  
YOU...CAN IT BE?

BUT IF THAT'S  
THE MAJOR,  
DON'T YOU  
THINK WE  
OUGHT TO  
GET HIM  
DOWN?

HA, HA, HA!  
NO...I THINK  
HE'S PERFECTLY  
SAFE UP THERE!  
HA, HA, HA!  
AT LEAST UNTIL THE  
FIRING SQUAD  
GETS HIM!



SERGEANT BOYLE MEETS CORPORAL COLLINS IN THE NEXT **PEP COMICS**



# THE FIREBALL

TED TYLER, ON VACATION IS VISITING IN THE CITY... SUDDENLY A WALL OF FLAMES SHOOTS OUT FROM A RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT HOUSE AND TED TYLER QUICKLY SHEDS HIS CLOTHING AND BECOMES THE FIREBALL! THEN HE DASHES INTO THE BUILDING AS FIRE-TRUCKS ROAR TOWARDS THE SCENE...

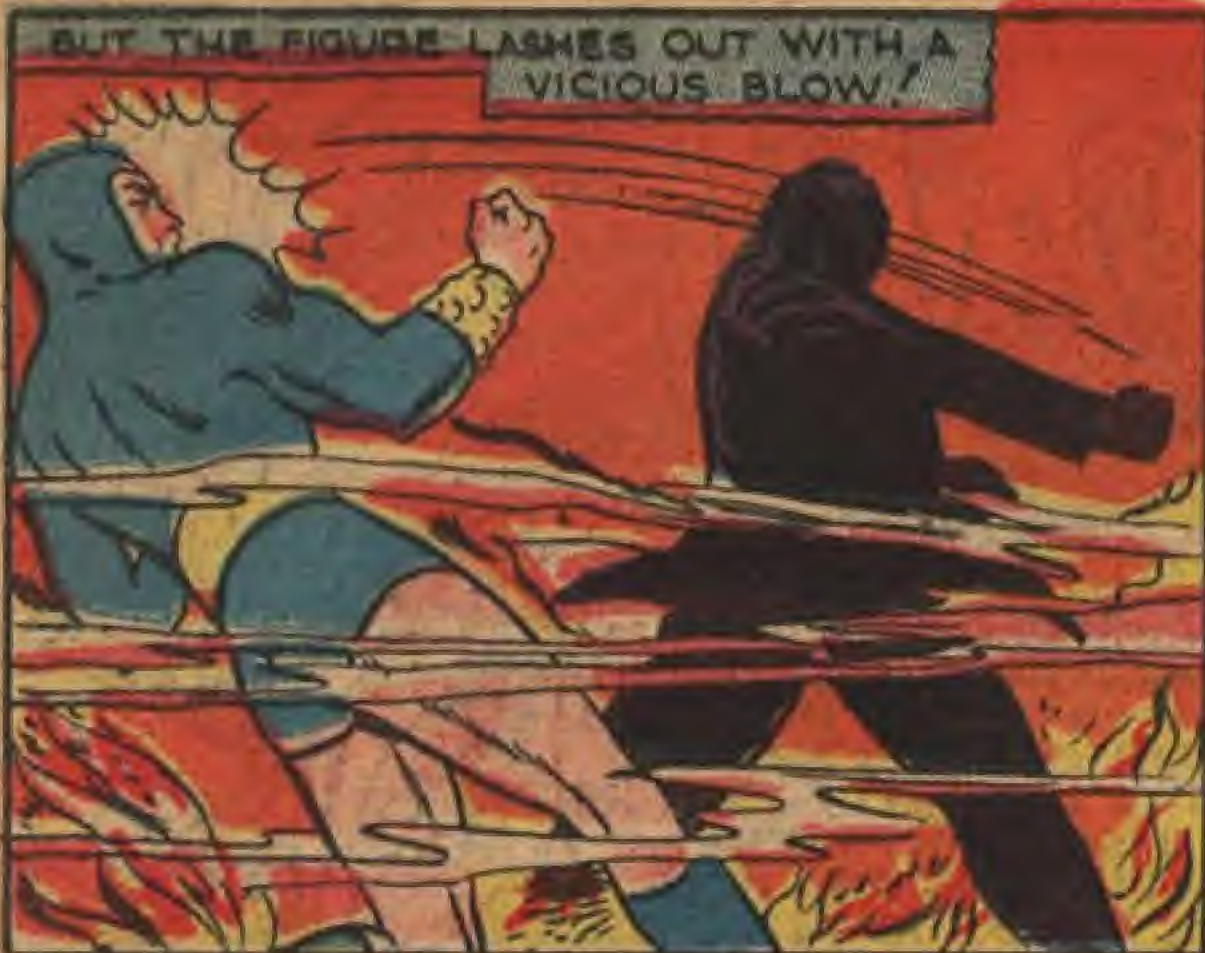


I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW SOMEBODY IN HERE A MINUTE AGO! OH, THERE HE IS!

HEY, MISTER! THIS WAY! YOU'LL BE TRAPPED IF YOU GO THAT WAY!



BUT THE FIGURE LASHES OUT WITH A VICIOUS BLOW!



HEY! YOU'RE JUST HYSTERICAL! TAKE IT EASY!



BUT THE STRANGE FIGURE SWINGS AGAIN AND THE BUTT OF HIS PISTOL CRASHES DOWN ON THE FIREBALL'S HEAD!



AS HE FALLS, THE FIREBALL GRASPS AT HIS ASSAILANT!



HIS CLUTCHING FINGERS CLOSE AROUND THE STRANGER'S CUFF LINK AND THEN...



THE FIREBALL SLUMPS UNCONSCIOUS TO THE FLOOR.



WITH THE CUFF LINK GRASPED FIRMLY IN HIS FIST!







HERE HE IS! MUST HAVE TRIED TO GET UP A MOMENT AGO AND COULDN'T MAKE IT!



COME ALONG, BUDDY! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR HUMAN BEINGS!



CHIEF HARRIS' DAUGHTER, HEDY ARRIVES AT THE FIRE...

DAD!



YOU HERE AGAIN? LEAVE ME ALONE! CHUB IS IN THERE RISKING HIS NECK TO SAVE SOME MUG!



HERE I AM, BOYS! I FEEL LIKE A STEAMED CLAM BUT THIS GUY IS STILL ALIVE!



GET THE OXYGEN TANK OVER HERE! QUICK!



HERE, HEDY! WATCH HIM A MINUTE, WILL YOU? I'VE GOT TO GET BACK WITH THE OTHERS!



HOW'S HE COMING, HEDY?

HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, CHUB- I THINK!



IT'S-IT'S AN ANGEL! I GUESS I'M IN HEAVEN. EH KID?

HUMPH! THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. YOU'RE OKAY.







NEXT DAY, AT THE HOSPITAL

HIYA, KID! WHO ARE ALL THE REST OF THE PEOPLE IN YOUR PARADE?



YOU'RE AWFULLY FRESH.....YOU CAME VERY NEAR BEING KILLED YESTERDAY!

BUT THE MINUTE I SAW YOUR GLEAMING LAMPS, I KNEW I'D BE ALL RIGHT!



THIS IS CHUB CHESTER, THE MAN WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE!

HELLO, FEELIN' BETTER?

MUCH BETTER, AND THANKS.



IT'S MY DUTY TO ASK YOU WHY YOU WERE IN THAT BUILDING. ANY EXPLANATION?

WHY? THINK I SET FIRE TO IT?



MAYBE YOU DID! BECAUSE I THINK SOMEBODY DID!

WHY? WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?



BECAUSE I

BECAUSE SHE THINKS SHE'S A GREAT DETECTIVE!

OH, IS THAT SO?



IT WAS THIS WAY, CHIEF! I WAS GOING BY AND I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE IN THERE SO I TRIED TO SAVE HIM!

WELL, LET ME WARN YOU THAT IF YOU WANT TO SAVE PEOPLE FROM FIRES, JOIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!



HA, HA! THAT'S A HOT ONE! IMAGINE YOU JOINING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!

NOW THAT YOU'VE BROUGHT IT UP, I AM A FIREMAN. BUT I WOULDN'T MIND JOINING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THIS CITY!



AND SO, DURING THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, TIM GOES THROUGH THE ENTIRE SERIES OF TESTS, NECESSARY TO MAKE HIM A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN FIRE DEPARTMENT





AND THEN,  
ONE DAY...

ALL SET  
BELOW?

ALL SET, TYLER!  
THIS IS YOUR  
LAST TEST!  
COME ON, BOY!  
JUMP!

THE MARKS ON  
MY HAND ARE "O.L."  
BUT THEY ARE REVERSED  
SO THEY MUST HAVE BEEN THE  
INITIALS "J.O." - AND THAT  
STANDS  
FOR JIM  
OLIVER,  
DOESN'T  
IT?

HOW'S THE SMART  
ALEC, DAD?

SMART ALEC OR NOT,  
HE'S THE BEST FIREMAN  
WE'VE EVER TURNED  
OUT IN THIS CITY!

GOIN MY WAY IN  
YOUR CAR?

NO! I'M GOING TO  
CALL ON JIM OLIVER  
AT HIS OFFICE!

FURTHERMORE,  
YOU SAID YOU  
THOUGHT SOME-  
ONE SET THE  
BUILDING ON  
FIRE, NOW...

GOSH, TED,  
DO YOU SUP-  
POSE JIM  
OLIVER SET  
FIRE TO HIS  
OWN BUILDING?

HELLO, ANGEL EYES!  
HOW'S TRICKS?

HUMPH!

CONGRATULATIONS! THANKS  
BOY! YOU'VE EX-  
BATTED 1,000

CHIEF, BUT EX-  
CUSE ME A  
MOMENT,  
WILL YOU?

JIM OLIVER, EH? HE OWNED  
THE BUILDING THAT BURNED, DIDN'T  
HE? WELL SEE THESE INITIALS ON  
MY HAND? THEY WERE BURNED  
THERE BY A CUFF LINK  
OF THE GUY  
IN THE BUILD-  
ING I TRIED TO  
SAVE.

I DON'T KNOW! BUT HOW'S  
ABOUT THE TWO OF US  
TRYING TO FIND OUT?

IT'S A DEAL,  
TED! I'M RIGHT  
WITH YOU!

FOLLOW THE FIREBALLS  
ADVENTURES NEXT MONTH





WELL DONE,  
MADAM SATAN!  
HEH, HEH! WELL  
DONE INDEED!

BUT TOM,  
NITA IS DEAD!  
SHE SHOULD  
BE BURIED!

NO, GEORGE!  
I'LL NOT PUT HER  
IN A DARK GRAVE!  
SHE FEARED THE  
DARK IN LIFE....  
AND I SHALL  
GIVE HER LIGHT  
IN DEATH!

ONLY LOVE AND HAPPINESS HAD EXISTED IN  
THE WORLD FOR THE NEWLYWEDS TOM AND  
NITA..AND THEN A SHADOW BLOTED OUT THIS  
SCENE OF BLISS..A SHADOW IN THE EARTHLY  
FORM OF IOLA IN REALITY MADAM SATAN,  
THE DEVIL'S MATE.....



IOLA! THAT FOOL IS  
FRUSTRATING US! MY COUSIN  
MAY COME OUT OF THE CATALEPTIC  
FIT YOU SCARED HER INTO AT  
ANY MOMENT!

JUST THEN, A SLIGHT  
SHUDDER WRACKS THE  
FRAME OF THE LOVELY  
NITA. HER EYELIDS  
TREMBLE, AND THEN...



LORD IN HEAVEN! HER  
EYES! THEY.. THEY'RE  
OPEN! JAMES, SHE'S  
ALIVE! MY DARLING'S  
RETURNED FROM  
THE GRAVE!

IT...IT..  
CAN'T  
BE!





THE SERVANT FLEES FROM THE ROOM, PANIC-STRICKEN!

IT'S THE DEVIL'S WORK! I'M NOT STAYING HERE ANY LONGER!



NOW WHAT? LOOKS LIKE I SHAN'T HAVE MY REVENGE AFTER ALL...AND YOU'RE OUT OF A COUPLE OF DISCIPLES FOR THE DEVIL!

PERHAPS NOT! DID YOU HEAR THAT SERVANT YELL THAT SHE STILL BELONGS TO THE GRAVE?



WELL I WANT YOU TO SPREAD THE BELIEF AMONGST THE VILLAGERS! MAKE THEM BELIEVE SHE'S A VAMPIRE...AND LEAVE THE REST TO ME!



THE BLACK-HEARTED COUSIN WASTES NO TIME...

SHE'S AN UNHOLY CREATURE, I TELL YOU!

I REMEMBER PA TELLIN' ME A STORY ABOUT WERE-WOLVES NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT!

EDGAR, OUR GRANDCHILD SAID SHE SAW SOMETHING AT THE WINDOW LAST NIGHT!

WHADDA YA THINIK OF TOM'S WIFE, AL!

WELL, I DUNNO!

I, MYSELF, SAW ONE OF THOSE THINGS WHEN I WAS A KID!



THEN, ONE NIGHT, AS A HEAVY, OMINOUS STILLNESS BLANKETS THE TOWN, A BAT WINGS ITS WAY HIGH ABOVE.



...SOARS THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW...



...THEN, A QUICK TRANSFORMATION, AND THE DIABOLICAL MADAM SATAN STANDS FORTH. STEALTHILY SHE BENDS OVER THE SLUMBERING CHILD, HER TEETH REACHING FOR THE SOFT, YOUNG THROAT.....



NEXT MORNING...

HEAVENS, JOHN! MY INTUITION WAS RIGHT! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO OUR DAUGHTER!





JOHN! SHE... SHE'S... WHITE AS A SHEET! ALMOST BLOOD-LESS!

AND THOSE MARKS ON HER THROAT.. THEY'RE TOOTH MARKS!



CLARA! OUR DAUGHTER HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY A VAMPIRE!... AND I KNOW WHO IT IS!

YOU... YOU MEAN TOM'S WIFE, NITA?



WHILE AT TOM'S HOUSE....

I'LL DRAW THE CURTAINS, DEAR, AND LET SOME LIGHT IN!

TOM, PLEASE DON'T!



BUT DARLING, YOU ALWAYS LOVED THE SUNSHINE!

YES, BUT THE SUN HURTS MY EYES. AND SINCE I'VE RECOVERED FROM MY ILLNESS, I DON'T FEAR THE DARKNESS ANYMORE!



THAT NIGHT...

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OUT OF JOHN HAWKIN'S STORY ABOUT A VAMPIRE ATTACKING HIS DAUGHTER?

I THINK IT'S TRUE!



YOU BET IT'S TRUE! IT'S MY COUSIN NITA! I WARNED TOM TO BURY HER WHEN SHE DIED, BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN!



JUST THEN...

LOOK! HERE COMES LEM SPRAGUE ...AND HE'S CARRY-IN' HIS SON!

THE BOY MUST BE ILL.. WHAT HAPPENED, LEM?



LOOK AT HIM, AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!

WHY, HIS FACE IS BLOODLESS, AND THOSE MARKS ON HIS THROAT...

A VAMPIRE!





THAT PROVES IT! IT'S TOM'S WIFE! WE'LL FIX HER!

GET A SHARP STAKE! WE'LL PUT AN END TO THAT FOUL CREATURE ONCE AND FOR ALL!



SOON AN ENRAGED MOB, LED BY THE EVIL COUSIN, MAKES FOR TOM'S HOME..



THERE SHE IS! DRIVE THE STAKE THROUGH THAT VAMPIRE'S HEART!



YOU MISERABLE SCUM! CALL MY WIFE A VAMPIRE, WILL YOU?

LET GO OF HIM, TOM!

AAARGH!



YES, TOM, LET GO OF HIM! THE TRUTH SHOCKS YOU, DOESN'T IT? BUT YOU MUST FACE IT!



SHE IS A VAMPIRE! LOOK AT HER HANDS, AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!

NO! IT'S NOT TRUE!



BLOOD!



TOM! DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME! THERE'S NO BLOOD ON MY HANDS! PLEASE BELIEVE ME!

I'LL NEVER BELIEVE ANYONE AGAIN! TAKE HER! KILL HER!



NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU SUDDENLY FEARED THE SUNLIGHT.. YOU... YOU... GHOUL!

NO! NO! IT'S NOT SO!





CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE FATAL LIPS OF MADAM SATAN TOM IS DRAWN..AND THEN, JUST AS SHE PREPARES TO PLANT THE KISS OF DEATH....



BUT GEORGE TOLD ME HE HAD TOLD YOU ALL ABOUT IT!

SO! THIS IS ALL YOUR DOING!

KEEP AWAY FROM ME!

HELP ME, IOLA! HE MEANS TO KILL ME!

HELP YOURSELF, YOU FOOL! YOU'RE OF NO MORE USE TO ME!

PANIC-STRICKEN, THE COWARDLY GEORGE FLEES... AND STUMBLES ON THE TOP STEP OF THE PORCH!

LORD IN HEAVEN! THE STAKE! IT'S GONE RIGHT THROUGH HIS HEART!

UGH!

AS THE WICKED COUSIN STIFFENS IN DEATH, HIS LIPS STRETCH INTO A FIXED HORRIBLE SMILE, AND HIS FACE BECOMES THAT OF AN IMP OF HADES

DOWN INTO THE PIT OF HADES MADAM SATAN WENDS HER WAY WITH THE BLACK SOUL OF THE COUSIN...

MASTER! I HAVE BROUGHT YOU A NEW DISCIPLE!

BAH! THAT SCOUNDREL BELONGED TO ME, ANYWAY! YOU HAVE FAILED ME AGAIN!

WHILE BACK ON EARTH...

NITA, WHAT CAN I SAY, WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE YOU FORGIVE ME?

NOTHING, TOM DARLING! I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH TO BE ANGRY WITH YOU!

GOOD FOR YOU, TOM AND NITA! I KNEW YOU'D CONQUER!

AS THE SUN RISES ON A NEW AND FRAGRANT WORLD...

LIFE CAN BE BEAUTIFUL, EH, MY FAITHFUL LITTLE BURRO?

BUT LIFE CAN ALSO BE TEMPESTUOUS BROTHER SUNBEAM..FOR WHILE MADAM SATAN EXISTS, EVIL STALKS THE EARTH. SEE FOR YOURSELF IN NEXT MONTH'S PEP COMICS!



STEEL, STERLING, CLANCY, AND LOONEY ARE IN SOUTH AMERICA ON AN AMERICAN GOODWILL TOUR. AT THE MOMENT, STEEL IS GUEST OF HONOR AT A BULL FIGHT



WHILE CLANCY AND LOONEY ARE BUSY GETTING THEMSELVES INTO TROUBLE!

THESE UNIFORMS WE JUST BOUGHT. SURE LOOK NIFTY, CLANCY!

YOU SAID IT, LOONEY! ONLY I WISH I KNEW WHAT THEY USE 'EM FOR!



JUST STEP RIGHT THROUGH THAT DOOR AND YOU'LL FIND OUT!

OBOY! I GET IT NOW. A MASQUERADE BALL!



CLANCY, LOOK, A COW! 'N IT LOOKS MAD!

JUST IGNORE IT, LOONEY!



WHILE IN THE STANDS

MADRE MIA!

GALLOPING GHOSTS! THEY'LL BE KILLED!



RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES, BOYS!

I THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG LOONEY!



SNORT SNORT!!

YEAH! WE BETTER DO LIKE STERLING SAYS!

TOO BAD WE GOTTA STOP NOW, HUH STEEL?

YES, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO SPOIL THE FUN THE GANG'LL HAVE READING ABOUT OUR ADVENTURES!



AND THIS IS JUST ONE OF A SERIES OF BREATHTAKING, PULSE-RACING INCIDENTS. HOW DOES STEEL STERLING FARE IN HIS DELICATE MISSION AS AMBASSADOR OF GOODWILL TO THE SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS? STEEL HAS NEVER ENCOUNTERED MORE DANGEROUS AND TREACHEROUS OPPOSITION. THRILL WITH STERLING, LAUGH UNTIL YOUR SIDES ACHE WITH THOSE DAFFY-DILLS, CLANCY AND LOONEY IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF ZIP COMICS!!

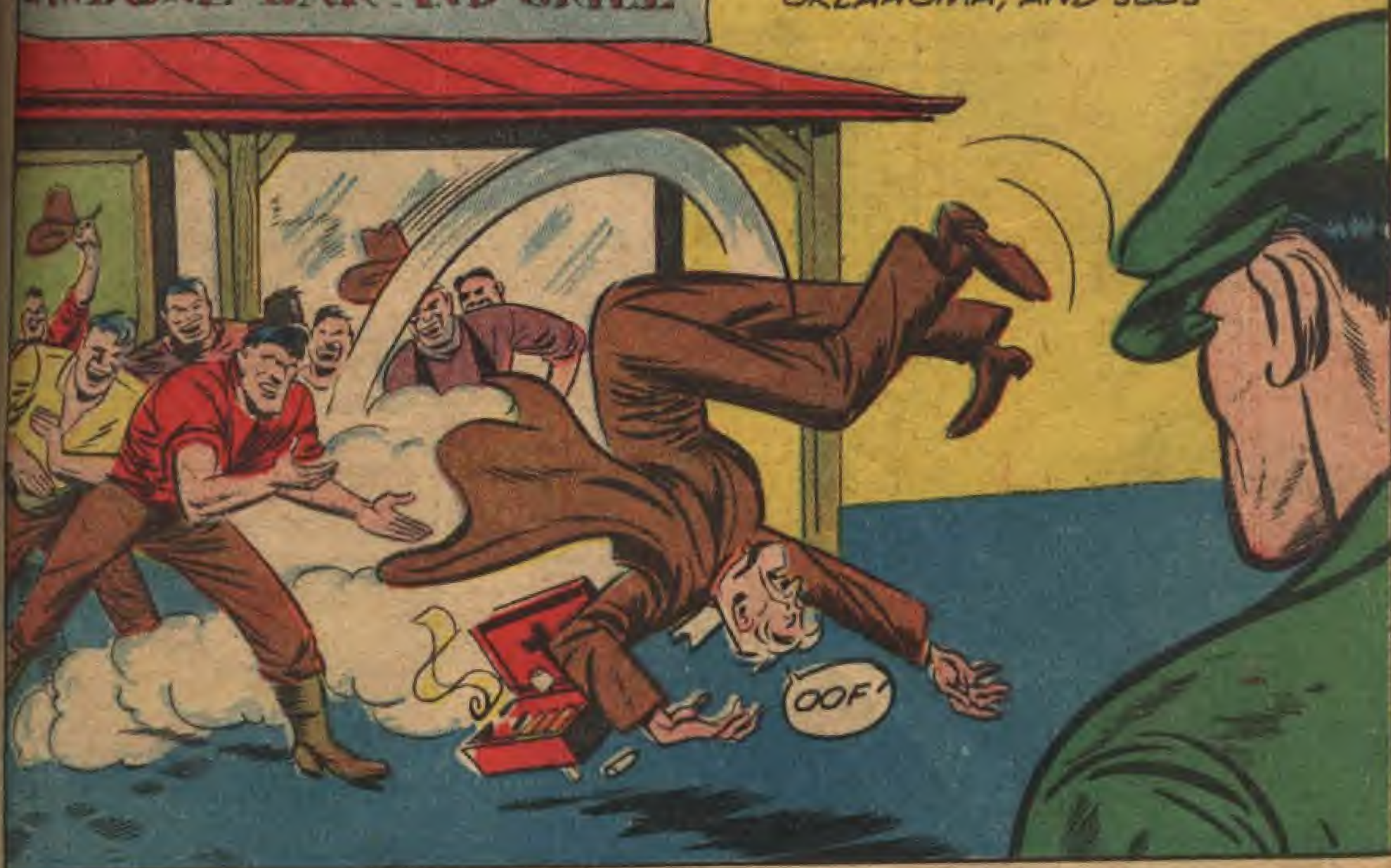
OCTOBER ZIP COMICS WILL BE ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTAND SOON. LOOK FOR IT!.....



# KAYO WARD

KAYO WARD, STILL WANDERING ABOUT THE COUNTRY, ARRIVES AT THE OIL TOWN OF BOSWELL, OKLAHOMA, AND SEES -

HWBONE BAR AND GRILL



MAYBE THAT'LL LEARN YA  
ONCE AN' FOR ALL WHEN  
WE SAY WE DON'T WANT  
NO INJECTIONS, WE  
MEAN IT!



KIN I BE OF  
SOME HELP,  
MISTER?

DO YOU REALLY  
MEAN THAT,  
STRANGER?



THAT'S THE FIRST OFFER  
OF HELP I'VE GOTTEN  
SINCE I SET UP MY PRAC-  
TICE HERE. I'M ALSO TRY-  
ING TO HELP, BUT THOSE  
FOOLS ARE TOO BLIND  
TO SEE!











OH...MY, MR. BROWN. YOUR FACE! DID YOU HAVE AN ACCIDENT?

MOTHER... PLEASE!



THAT WAS TACTLESS OF MOTHER. TOM'S FEELINGS WERE DEEPLY HURT!

YES, MARTHA. HE'S A FINE CHAP. LET'S TRY TO BE VERY CONSIDERATE OF HIS FEELINGS!



WHILE BACK IN THE SALOON. INJECTIONS, NONSENSE! (HIC)

THAT'S WHAT I SAY, DOC!



I'VE BEEN THE TOWN DOCTOR FOR YEARS (HIC). IF THERE WAS ANY CHOLERA AROUND, I'D KNOW ABOUT IT JUST AS FAST AS THAT QUACK!



JUST THEN - WHAT IN ...

JUPITER! IS IT THE CHOLERA?



HE'S DEAD... BUT HE DIDN'T DIE FROM CHOLERA!



IT'S THAT DOC GRAVES AND HIS INJECTIONS. HE'S POISONED US ALL, THAT'S WHAT!



AT THAT MOMENT IN DR. GRAVES' HOME...

GOLLY. THIS IS THE MOST DELICIOUS MEAL I EVER TASTED!

OH, YOU'RE JUST FLATTERING ME, MR. BROWN!



JUST THEN - DOCTOR! MY LITTLE GIRL. SHE'S BEEN RUN OVER! PLEASE DO SOMETHING!



YOUR DAUGHTER JOAN'S BADLY HURT, MRS. BARNES. I'LL HAVE TO OPERATE IMMEDIATELY!



AS THE DOCTOR'S ABOUT TO OPERATE!  
FATHER! THERE'S A CROWD STORMING TOWARD OUR HOUSE! WHAT IN THE WORLD CAN THE MATTER BE?



YOUSE FELLOWS'LL HAVE TO BE QUIET. THE DOCTOR IS OPER- ATIN'!  
THAT QUACK AIN'T GONNA OPERATE IN THIS TOWN! HE'S KILLED ONE PER- SON AL- READY



THEY MUST BE OUT OF THEIR MINDS. I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY DO WITH ME, BUT IF I DON'T OPERATE IMMEDIATELY, THIS CHILD WILL DIE!



YOU GO RIGHT AHEAD, DOC. I'LL SEE THAT THEY DON'T BOTHER YOU!



HE'S POISONED US ALL, I TELL YA. STRING HIM UP, I SAY!



YOU FELLAS ARE ALL EXCITED OVER NUTHIN'! NOW IF YOU'LL JUST GO ON HOME, AND...



STAND ASIDE, WE WARN YOU, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT!

NO. I AIN'T GONNA STAND ASIDE!



STRING HIM UP, TOO!

S'MACK 'IM DOWN!







THE MOB, NOW PACIFIED, GENTLY BEARS THE BATTERED KAYO INTO THE DOCTOR'S HOUSE.



POOR, DEAR BOY! THOSE SCARS ON HIS FACE HAVE OPENED AGAIN. HOW NOBLE AND BRAVE HE IS!



WELL THE OPERATION IS DONE. JOAN WILL BE ALL RIGHT!

DOC. I WANNA APOLOGIZE. THAT'S THE SLICKEST SURGERY I EVER SAW!



I'M A DRUNKARD MYSELF. BUT I'M NOT TOO FAR GONE TO GIVE CREDIT TO A GREAT DOCTOR!



GEE DOC! WE FEEL LIKE HEELS!

IN JUST TO SHOW YA WE-MEAN IT, YA CAN INJECT EVERY MAN-JACK IN THIS TOWN. AND TWICE ON SUNDAYS IF YA LIKE!



THANK YOU BOYS. YOUR CONFIDENCE MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME. BUT IT'S TOM BROWN WHO REALLY SHOULD BE THANKED!



TOM! I THINK I COULD PATCH YOUR FACE UP, FINE. WILL YOU LET ME TRY?

GO AHEAD N' LET I'M TOM.



WELL, WHY NOT? YOUSE COULDN'T MAKE IT ANY WORSE!

AND MAYBE A LOT BETTER. I'LL START IMMEDIATELY!

CAN DOCTOR GRAVES FIX KAYO'S FACE? THE NEXT ISSUE OF **PEP COMICS** HAS THE THRILLING ANSWER!



# BENTLEY

## of SCOTLAND YARD

AND THE CASE OF...  
THE WITCH'S CURSE

IT IS A BLEAK NIGHT THAT SHROUDS LONDON...A NIGHT OF THICK ROLLING FOG AND WEIRD DANCING MISTS. AS BENTLEY SITS SMOKING, A QUEER PREMONITION OF SOMETHING ABOUT TO HAPPEN PERVADES HIM...THEN, THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN, AND A WILD-EYED FIGURE STAGGERS IN!

THE WITCH IS AFTER US! IT'LL KILL US ALL, I TELL YOU!

EASY, OLD MAN! SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

BENTLEY! WE'RE IN DREADFUL DANGER!

I AM LORD ROTHMERE OF KENNISTON CRAG! MY SON HAS JUST BEEN MURDERED--MURDERED BY THE WITCH'S CURSE! I SCOFFED AT THE LEGEND OF THE CURSE THAT HANGS OVER KENNISTON CRAG!...BUT NOW, I BELIEVE IT! IT ALL BEGAN FIVE CENTURIES AGO, WHEN ONE OF MY ANCESTORS, THE DUKE OF ROTHMERE, BUILT THE CASTLE!







ONE DAY AN OLD HAG WAS DRAGGED BEFORE THE DUKE ACCOMPANIED BY A SOBBING MOTHER WITH A DEAD BABY IN HER ARMS.

EXCELLENCY! THIS WOMAN IS A WITCH!



YES, EXCELLENCY, IT'S TRUE (SOB, SOB) SHE PLACED A CURSE ON MY CHILD AND... AND HE DIED!

BY MY BONES, THE TOT BEARS NO MARK OF DISEASE OR VIOLENCE AT THAT!



FOUL CREATURE, I HAVE BEEN TOLD BEFORE ABOUT YOUR EVIL PRACTICES, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST PROOF I'VE HAD WITH MY OWN EYES. I SENTENCE YOU TO THE FLAME-WHEEL--TO BE BURNED TO DEATH!



THE DUKE'S ORDERS WERE PUT INTO IMMEDIATE EXECUTION, AND THEN, AS THE FLAMES BEGAN TO LICK ABOUT HER WRETCHED BODY...



THE WITCH UTTERED A HORRIBLE CURSE!

I SHALL RETURN, DUKE, EVERY HUNDRED YEARS, AND KILL YOUR DESCENDANTS UNTIL THE LAST OF YOUR FAMILY IS BLOTTED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!



I AM A RATIONAL MAN, BENTLEY, AND I DID NOT PLACE MUCH STOCK IN THIS FAIRY TALE... BUT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT, I..I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK!



WE WERE ALL SEATED AROUND THE FIREPLACE DISCUSSING ORDINARY THINGS AND SIPPING TEA..



SUDDENLY, MY SON STAGGERED TO HIS FEET AND HIS FACE GREW LIVID AS HE GASPED.

I..I'M BEING STRANGLERED! AARGH!



WE WERE ALL TOO STUNNED FOR A MOMENT TO DO ANYTHING! I WAS THE FIRST TO BE AT HIS SIDE, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE... HE WAS ALREADY DEAD.



AND THEN I REMEMBERED THE WITCH'S CURSE! IT MUST BE TRUE! WE'RE ALL DOOMED!

SUPPOSING WE TAKE A RUN OUT TO YOUR PLACE, NOW!



HOURS LATER, BENTLEY AND LORD ROTHMERE ARRIVE AT KENNIS-TON CRAG...

I'VE BROUGHT BACK BENTLEY OF SCOTLAND YARD, JEEVES! HAS ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENED?

NO, LORD ROTHMERE!



BENTLEY IMMEDIATELY INSPECTS THE CORPSE...

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT HIM BEING STRANGLER, AND BY A SOLID PAIR OF HANDS, I'D SAY!



I'LL HAVE A LOOK AROUND THE ROOM!

DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER, IF WE ALL HAD A SPOT OF TEA FIRST, LORD ROTHMERE?



DREADFULLY SORRY TO BE SO POOR A HOST, SIR RODERICK! TEA WOULD BE JUST THE THING!

LET ME POUR IT FOR YOU, INSPECTOR!

THIS IS SIR RODERICK ERSWORTH, FAMOUS HISTORIAN, AND A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE, BENTLEY.

HOW DO YOU DO!



THIS IS MY BROTHER, SIR REGINALD!.. MY SON, TOM, AND DAUGHTER, MELINDA!

INSPECTOR, DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE SUCH THINGS CAN HAPPEN?

NO!







WELL, I DO! THIS IS THE WITCH'S WORK, ALL RIGHT, AND NEITHER YOU NOR ANYBODY ELSE CAN HELP US!

YOU APPEAR ANXIOUS FOR ME NOT TO INVESTIGATE, SIR REGINALD!



AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND IN THE LIBRARY!



BENTLEY PROCEEDS TO TAP THE WALLS FOR SECRET PANELS..

HMM.. THEY ALL SEEM SOLID ENOUGH!



SUDDENLY A STRANGE NUMBNESS STEALS OVER BENTLEY ROOTING HIM TO THE SPOT...



AND THEN A DAGGER SEEMINGLY RESOLVES ITSELF FROM THIN AIR AND FLOATS TOWARD HIM...



SWEAT POURING DOWN HIS FACE, THE INSPECTOR STRUGGLES TO OVERCOME HIS NUMBNESS...



AND, WITH A SUPREME EFFORT, BENTLEY PRESSES A BUTTON ON HIS CANE, EXPOSING A SWORD. THEN, JUST AS THE FLOATING DAGGER IS AT HIS THROAT.....



BENTLEY LASHES OUT...





BENTLEY DASHES OUT INTO THE HALL...

HERE! WHAT'S UP?

SIR REGINALD... DID YOU SEE ANYBODY ABOUT?



I WAS ATTACKED APPARENTLY BY YOUR WITCH OF KENNISTON CRAG!

HA, NOW, MAYBE YOU'LL BELIEVE THAT A WITCH'S CURSE HANGS OVER OUR CASTLE!



BENTLEY PROCEEDS TO ROUND UP THE HOUSEHOLD...

MELINDA!..TOM!.. ONE MOMENT, PLEASE!



WHERE IS YOUR FATHER AND SIR RODERICK?

WHY THEY WENT WALKING IN THE GARDEN, I SUPPOSE!



AT THAT MOMENT, LORD ROTHMERE AND THE HISTORIAN ENTER.....



WELL, LORD ROTHMERE, I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOUR WITCH, BUT I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO DISILLUSION YOU ABOUT ITS GHOSTLY QUALITIES.

WHAT'S THAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BENTLEY?



I MEAN THAT THE THING WHICH KILLED YOUR SON AND ALMOST GOT ME WAS NO CURSE, GHOST OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT! IT WAS A HUMAN BEING RIGHT HERE IN THIS ROOM---AND I THINK I KNOW WHO!

INSPECTOR BENTLEY KNOWS THE MURDERER--- DO YOU?

1 LORD ROTHMERE

2 SIR RODERICK

3 MELINDA

4 TOM

5 SIR REGINALD

MARK YOUR CHOICE AGAINST THE LIST ABOVE....THEN, TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE AND SEE BENTLEY SOLVE THE CASE OF THE WITCH'S CURSE!



